

Remarks

The Applicant acknowledges the indication that claims 2-41 recite patentable subject matter. The Applicant submits the amended claims submitted with this response are all patentable over the art.

The Examiner rejected the claims under section 112, second paragraph, noting that the meaning of the term "non-cylindrical" is generally understood to be broader than how the term is used in the application and claims. The Applicant has thus amended the claims as suggested by the Examiner and submits that all of the claims are not in condition for allowance. Each of the independent claims has been amended to remove the word "non-cylindrical." Each independent claim now requires one of the recited bearing surfaces to be concave with the other of the recited bearing surfaces being convex. The Applicant does not see a need to amend the specification because the limited use of the term "non-cylindrical" is clear by the way the term is used in the specification.

The anticipation rejection of claim 1 has been obviated by the claim amendments because claim 1 is now similar to the subject matter of claims 2 and 7, both of which have been indicated to recite patentable subject matter.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims and most earnestly solicits the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance for the claims.

Please call the undersigned attorney if any issues remain after this amendment.



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I hereby certify that this correspondence (Amendment A in application serial no. 10/632,459 filed 31 July 2003) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail (with sufficient postage) in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, OR is being transmitted by facsimile to 571-273-8300 on January 25, 2006.



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